

THINK SAFETY

GOOD WINTER DRIVING TECHNIQUES

For your safety, the safety of other travelers, and the safety of the DOT crews, remember to practice these good winter driving techniques.

- Stay a safe distance behind the snowplows. During snow plowing operations visibility can be reduced by blowing snow. Operators may need to stop or move over to avoid stranded vehicles. Materials are also being spread for your driving safety.
- Make sure you have clear vision ahead before passing a snowplow. On two-lane roads where traffic is not able to pass the plows, plow operators will pull over periodically to let vehicles behind them pass. On divided highways, watch for snowplows operating in the left lane.
- Be aware that ramps, bridges and overpasses may occasionally freeze first.
- Allow plenty of room when passing a snowplow. Do not cut back into the lane ahead of the plow too quickly since the blade extends several feet ahead of the truck.
- Be aware of “black ice” (roads that look wet but are actually glazed with ice.)
- Move as far away from the centerline of the pavement as you safely can when meeting a snowplow on a two-lane road since blowing snow may obscure the actual width of the snowplow’s blade.



Watch when passing a snow plow for the “wing” plow.

- Remain alert. Snowplows generally move slower than other traffic (5-35 mph), and may be completely obscured at times by blowing snow and blizzard-like conditions. This is especially important when you see an area of blowing snow that could conceal a plow.
- Don’t try to pass snowplows that are working together in tandem pulling snow from the middle of a divided highway. There isn’t enough room for you to get through.
- Turn on your lights - to see and be seen. Brush the snow off your head lights and tail lights frequently.
- Know how your anti-lock brakes work in slippery conditions.
- Don’t drive through “white out” conditions caused by plowing of light snow or cross winds. Be patient. Conditions will change so you can travel and pass safely.
- Don’t travel beside a snowplow. They can be moved sideways after hitting drifts or cutting through snow pack.
- Drive well below the posted speed limit and avoid the use of cruise control when snow, ice, freezing rain or sleet is on the pavement. The posted speed limits are intended for normal pavement conditions.

Buckle up!